IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

CASE NO. 1:12-cv-2296-TCB

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Plaintiff,

VS.

Aubrey Lee Price, PFG, LLC, PFGBI, LLC, Montgomery Asset Management, LLC f/k/a PFG Asset Management, Montgomery Asset Management, LLC f/k/a PFG Asset Management,

Defendants.	

Genworth Life Insurance Company, Protective Life Insurance Company, Household Life Insurance Company,

Plaintiffs in Intervention,

VS.

Melanie E. Damian, as Receiver for the Estate of Aubrey Lee Price, PFG, LLC, PFGBI, LLC, Montgomery Asset Management, LLC f/k/a PFG Asset Management,

Defendant in Intervention.

THE RECEIVER'S REPLY TO INTERVENTION PLAINTIFFS PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'S AND HOUSEHOLD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION DEFENDANT MELANIE E. DAMIAN'S STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED FACTS

Defendant in Intervention, Melanie E. Damian, as the Receiver for the Estate of Aubrey Lee Price, *et al.* (the "Receiver"), by and through the undersigned, and pursuant to all pertinent Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, hereby replies to Intervention Plaintiffs Protective Life Insurance Company's ("Protective") and Household Life Insurance Company's ("Household" and, collectively, the "Parties") Response to Intervention Defendant Melanie E. Damian's Statement of Undisputed Facts, and states as follows:

Reply to Response to the Receiver's Undisputed Statement of Facts

1. Defendant in Intervention, Melanie E. Damian, as the Receiver for the Estate of Aubrey Lee Price, *et al.* (the "Receiver"), hereby submits this Statement of Undisputed Facts in conjunction with her Motion for Summary Judgment and Incorporated Memorandum of Law (the "Motion") in accordance with Local Rule 56.1(B).

RESPONSE: There is no dispute amongst the Parties.

2. The parties to this matter have previously stipulated to two different statements of undisputed facts, including (1) a Joint Statement of Stipulated Facts

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[D.E. 210] (designated "Stipulation I" in the Receiver's Motion), and (2) a Joint

Supplemental Statement of Stipulated Facts [D.E. 231] (designated "Stipulation

II" in the Receiver's Motion). Stipulation I and Stipulation II are incorporated by

reference into the Motion as Exhibits "A" and "B," respectively. Stipulation I and

Stipulation II are also attached hereto as Exhibits "A" and "B," respectively, to

which the Receiver refers the Court in satisfaction of Local Rule 56.1(B).

RESPONSE: There is no dispute amongst the Parties.

3. The parties have also stipulated that all of the records produced in

discovery in this matter are accurate and authentic copies of their respective

business records. Stipulation II at ¶ 2. Household Life Insurance Company's

documents bear the Bates label "Household" and Protective Life Insurance

Company's documents bear the Bates label "Protective." These records are

incorporated by reference into the Motion accordingly.

RESPONSE: There is no dispute amongst the Parties.

Reply to Intervention Plaintiff Household Life Insurance Company's

Statement of Additional Material Facts¹

4. Household Life Insurance Company Policy No. 4270711 (the

"Household Policy") is only payable upon the death of the insured, Aubrey Lee

¹ With the exception of Fact No. 4 below, Household simply restates verbatim certain facts from its Statement of Undisputed Material Facts filed in conjunction with its Motion for Summary Judgment. In an abundance of caution, the Receiver

repeats the same responses to these facts.

Price: "If the insured **dies** while this Policy is in force during its Term Period, Household Life Insurance Company will pay the face amount to the Beneficiary, subject to the provisions of this Policy. . . . Any proceeds payable because of the **death** of the Insured will be paid when we receive satisfactory proof of the Insured's **death** and the surrender of the Policy to us." (Household Policy, attached as Exhibit B to Household Life Insurance Company's Motion for Summary Judgment Brief ("Household Motion"), ECF Doc. No. 240-4, at Household00000 1, Household000005) (emphasis added). The Household Policy further states:

- "Face Amount Payable at Death of Insured During Term Period"
- "The Beneficiary means the person to receive the proceeds in the event of *the Insured's death*"
- "Payment of Proceeds Proceeds payable upon *the death of the Insured* are equal to the amount of insurance in force on the *date of death* plus any benefits provided by the attached Policy riders less any premium that is due and unpaid on the *date of death*"
- "Any proceeds payable because of *the death of the Insured* will be paid to the Beneficiary"
- "Face Amount Payable *at Death of Insured* During Term Period" (*Id.*, at Household000001, Household000005, Household000007, Household00001 0) (emphasis added).

RESPONSE: The Receiver denies Household's characterization that the Policy "is only payable upon the death of the insured." The Policy language

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speaks for itself, and provides that "[a]ny proceeds payable because of the death of the Insured will be paid when we receive *satisfactory proof* of the Insured's death and the surrender of the Policy to us." Household005 (emphasis added).

5. Following Price's disappearance on June 16, 2012, the Receiver cooperated with federal and state authorities in the search for Price, but she conducted no independent investigation concerning whether Price was alive or deceased. (Receiver Melanie Damian Deposition Transcript, attached as Exhibit C to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-5, at pp. 30:19 – 31:2).

RESPONSE: The Receiver admits that she cooperated with federal and state authorities in the search for Price, but denies that she conducted no independent investigation concerning whether Price was alive or deceased. The Receiver's testimony on this matter specifically stated:

Q: Can you describe for me what you did – strike that.
So other than your interviewing certain witnesses, you did not take any other independent investigation to determine whether Price was alive or dead following his disappearance?

A: No, it's not my charge to find him.

Id. at 30:17 – 23.

6. Following Price's disappearance on June 16, 2012, the Receiver conducted numerous interviews with individuals in an effort to locate Price's 5 of 19

assets. (Receiver's Verified Interrogatory Response No. 2, attached as Exhibit D to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-6). Among other people, the Receiver interviewed Price's wife, daughters, sister, mother, and father. (*Id.*) The Receiver also interviewed Price's colleagues and employees, and over fifty investors defrauded by Price. (*Id.*) During these interviews, the Receiver inquired about Price's whereabouts. (Exhibit C to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-5, at p. 26:13-25). Based upon these interviews, and possessing no evidence suggesting Price was alive, the Receiver concluded that Price died by suicide. (*Id.*, at pp.

RESPONSE: Denied to the extent none of the above citations support the statement that "the Receiver concluded that Price died by suicide." Admitted as to the remaining statements.

61:3-9; 61:18-21; 63:11-20; 99:25 – 100:24).

7. Following Price's disappearance on June 16, 2012, the Receiver made herself the owner and beneficiary of the Household Policy so she could keep the Household Policy up to date and make a claim for the Household Policy death proceeds to the extent Price could be declared deceased. (*Id.*, at p. 81:7-14; *see also* Receiver's Initial Report, ECF Doc. No. 47, at p. 32).

RESPONSE: Admitted, except that the Receiver listed "Melanie E. Damian as Receiver of the Estate of Aubrey L. Price" as the owner and beneficiary of the Household Policy.

8. The Receiver filed the claim seeking payment of the proceeds of the Household Policy because she was convinced that Price was deceased. (Exhibit C to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-5, at pp. 88:18 – 89:12).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

9. In her January 14, 2013 claim letter, the Receiver informed Household that:

Following an extensive search by the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, and other law enforcement authorities, he [Mr. Price] was declared missing at sea and presumed dead. Shortly after his disappearance, documents and other physical evidence were discovered by his family and co-workers that confirmed Mr. Price's intent in boarding the Key West Express was to commit suicide. On December 31, 2012, following an evidentiary hearing into the matter, Aubrey Lee Price was declared legally deceased. . . .

(January 14, 2013 Claim Letter, attached as Exhibit F to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-8).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

10. On February 4, 2013, the Receiver completed a Term Life Claim Form, in which she represented that Price died by suicide. (Joint Statement of Stipulated Facts, attached as Exhibit A to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-3, at ¶ 24; Exhibit C to Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-5, at pp. at pp. 93:2 – 94:7; 95:4-7; Term Life Claim Form, attached as Exhibit G to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-9, at Household000032).

RESPONSE:

Admitted.

11. Having received the Order Granting Petition for Presumptive Death

Certificate, the Receiver's sworn declaration that she knew of no credible evidence

of Price's continued existence after his disappearance, and the Term Life Claim

Form, Household issued two checks to the Receiver in the total amount of

\$543,561.64 (the "Household Payment") on March 8, 2013. (Exhibit A to

Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-3, at ¶ 25). Household relied upon the

aforementioned documents and the Receiver's statements in issuing the Household

Payment, and Household did not undertake an independent investigation as to

whether Price was alive or deceased. (Joint Supplemental Statement of Stipulated

Facts, attached as Exhibit H to Household Motion, ECF Doc. No. 240-10, at ¶ 15).

RESPONSE: The Receiver admits the first sentence. The Receiver further

admits that Household "did not undertake an independent investigation as to

whether Price was alive or deceased." By stipulation between the parties,

"Household relied on the claim submission by the Receiver, the Hamilton County,

Florida Circuit Court's Order and Presumptive Death Certificate for Mr. Price in

paying the Receiver's claim." Stipulation II at ¶ 15.

12. The Receiver *admits* that it was reasonable for Household to make the Household Payment under the circumstances. (Exhibit C to Household Motion,

ECF Doc. No. 240-5, at p. 173:15-18).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

13. The Receiver testified that she has sufficient funds in her trust

accounts to return the full amount of the Household Policy proceeds. (Id., at p.

124:14-19).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

14. The Receiver testified that she has no opinion or belief concerning the

following topics: (1) whether Price's presumptive death certificate was due

proof of Price's death; (2) whether or not an insurer can rely upon a presumptive

death certificate issued by a court of law; or (3) whether Household should

have questioned the Receiver's representation that Price died by suicide. (Id., at

pp. 98:10-14; 132:18-21; 126:2-7).

RESPONSE: Denied with respect to (1), because the Receiver was questioned

as to whether the presumptive death certificate "constituted proof that Mr. Price

was dead" - not whether it constituted "due proof" under the Protective Policy

language. *Id.* at 98:10-14. Admitted as to (2) and (3).

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Reply to Intervention Plaintiff Protective Life Insurance Company's Statement of Additional Material Facts²

15. Protective Life Insurance Company Policy No. L26007137 (the "Protective Policy") is only payable upon the death of the insured, Aubrey Lee Price: "We will pay the Death Benefit promptly after we receive, at our Home Office, due proof that the Insured **died** prior to the Final Expiration Date and while the Policy was in Full Force." (Protective Policy, attached as Exhibit A to Protective Life Insurance Company's Motion for Summary Judgment Brief ("Protective Motion"), ECF Doc. No. 24 1-3, at Protective00000004) (emphasis added). The Protective Policy further states:

- "Payable *at Death* Prior to the Final Expiration Date"
- "Death Benefit is the amount payable when *you die*"
- "Beneficiary The Beneficiary is named on Page 3 unless changed by the Owner. At the time of *your death*, the Beneficiary will be as set forth in the designation then in effect"
- "Beneficiary Succession At the time of *your death*, the Death Benefit will be paid: (a) to the primary Beneficiary, if living, if not: (b) to the contingent Beneficiary, if living, if not: (c) to the Insured's estate"

RESPONSE: The Receiver denies Protective's characterization that the Policy "is only payable upon the death of the insured." The Policy language

² With the exception of Fact No. 15 below, Household simply restates verbatim certain facts from its Statement of Undisputed Material Facts filed in conjunction with its Motion for Summary Judgment. In an abundance of caution, the Receiver repeats the same responses to these facts.

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speaks for itself, and provides that "[w]e will pay the Death Benefit promptly after

we receive, at our Home Office, *due proof* that the Insured died prior to the Final

Expiration Date and while this Policy was in Full Force. Protective009 (emphasis

added).

16. Following Price's disappearance on June 16, 2012, the Receiver

cooperated with federal and state authorities in the search for Price, but she

conducted no independent investigation concerning whether Price was alive or

deceased. (Receiver Melanie Damian Deposition Transcript, attached as Exhibit

C to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-5, at pp. 30:19–31:2).

RESPONSE: The Receiver admits that she cooperated with federal and state

authorities in the search for Price, but denies that she conducted no independent

investigation concerning whether Price was alive or deceased. The Receiver's

testimony on this matter specifically stated:

Q: Can you describe for me what you did – strike that.

So other than your interviewing certain witnesses, you did not take any

other independent investigation to determine whether Price was alive

or dead following his disappearance?

A: No, it's not my charge to find him.

Id. at 30:17 – 23.

17. Following Price's disappearance on June 16, 2012, the Receiver

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conducted numerous interviews with individuals in an effort to locate Price's assets. (Receiver's Verified Interrogatory Response No. 2, attached as Exhibit D to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-6). Among other people, the Receiver interviewed Price's wife, daughters, sister, mother, and father. (*Id.*) The Receiver also interviewed Price's colleagues and employees, and over fifty investors defrauded by Price. (*Id.*) During these interviews, the Receiver inquired about Price's whereabouts. (Exhibit C to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-5, at p. 26:13-25). Based upon these interviews, and possessing no evidence suggesting Price was alive, the Receiver concluded that Price died by suicide. (*Id.*, at pp. 61:3-9; 61:18-21; 63:11-20; 99:25 – 100:24).

RESPONSE: Denied to the extent none of the above citations support the statement that "the Receiver concluded that Price died by suicide." Admitted as to the remaining statements.

- 18. Following Price's disappearance on June 16, 2012, the Receiver made herself the owner and beneficiary of the Protective Policy so she could keep the Protective Policy up to date and make a claim for the Protective Policy death proceeds to the extent Price could be declared deceased. (*Id.*, at p. 81:7-14; *see also* Receiver's Initial Report, ECF Doc. No. 47, at p. 32).
- RESPONSE: Admitted, except that the Receiver listed "Melanie
 Damian as Receiver of the Estate of Aubrey L. Price" as the owner and 12 of 19

beneficiary of the Household Policy.

19. The Receiver filed the claim seeking payment of the proceeds of the Protective Policy because she was convinced that Price was deceased. (Exhibit C to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-5, at pp. 88:18 – 89:12).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

20. In her January 14, 2013 claim letter, the Receiver informed Protective that:

Following an extensive search by the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, and other law enforcement authorities, he [Mr. Price] was declared missing at sea and presumed dead. Shortly after his disappearance, documents and other physical evidence were discovered by his family and co-workers that confirmed Mr. Price's intent in boarding the Key West Express was to commit suicide. On December 31, 2012, following an evidentiary hearing into the matter, Aubrey Lee Price was declared legally deceased. . . .

(January 14, 2013 Claim Letter, attached as Exhibit F to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-8).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

21. On March 14, 2013, the Receiver completed a Claimant's Statement for Death Benefit, in which she represented that Price had died by suicide. (Joint Statement of Stipulated Facts, attached as Exhibit B to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-4, at ¶ 15; Exhibit C to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-5, at p. 97:1-24; Claim Form, attached as Exhibit G to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No.

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241-9, at Protective000188).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

22. On May 3, 2013, the Receiver submitted Price's Death Certificate to

Protective. (Death Certificate, attached as Exhibit H to Protective Motion, ECF

Doc. No. 241-10).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

23. Having received the Order Granting Petition for Presumptive Death

Certificate, the Receiver's sworn declaration that she knew of no credible evidence

of Price's continued existence after his disappearance, Price's Death Certificate,

and the Claimant's Statement for Death Benefit, Protective issued a check to the

Receiver in the amount of \$251,510.32 (the "Protective Payment") on July 3, 2013.

(Exhibit B to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-4, at ¶ 17). Protective relied

upon the aforementioned documents and the Receiver's statements in issuing the

Protective Payment, and Protective did not undertake an independent

investigation as to whether Price was alive or deceased. (Joint Supplemental

Statement of Stipulated Facts, attached as Exhibit Ito Protective Motion, ECF Doc.

No. 241-11, at ¶3).

RESPONSE: The Receiver admits the first sentence. The Receiver further

admits that Protective "did not undertake an independent investigation as to

whether Price was alive or deceased." By stipulation between the parties,

Protective "relied on claim documents submitted by the Receiver, including the Hamilton County, Florida Circuit Court's Order and Presumptive Death Certificate for Mr. Price." Stipulation II at ¶ 3.

24. The Receiver *admits* that it was reasonable for Protective to make the Protective Payment under the circumstances. (Exhibit C to Protective Motion, ECF Doc. No. 241-5, at p. 173:15-18).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

25. The Receiver testified that she has sufficient funds in her trust accounts to return the full amount of the Protective Policy proceeds. (*Id.*, at p. 124:14-19).

RESPONSE: Admitted.

26. The Receiver testified that she has no opinion or belief concerning the following topics: (1) whether Price's presumptive death certificate was due proof of Price's death; (2) whether or not an insurer can rely upon a presumptive death certificate issued by a court of law; or (3) whether Protective should have questioned the Receiver's representation that Price died by suicide. (*Id.*, at pp. 98:10-14; 132:18-21; 126:2-7).

RESPONSE: Denied with respect to (1), because the Receiver was questioned as to whether the presumptive death certificate "constituted proof that Mr. Price was dead" – not whether it constituted "due proof" under the Protective Policy 15 of 19

language. *Id.* at 98:10-14. Admitted as to (2) and (3).

Respectfully submitted,

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LOCAL RULE 5.1 CERTIFICATION

By signature below, counsel certifies that the foregoing document was

prepared in Times New Roman, 14-point font in compliance with Local Rule 5.1.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on March 3, 2015 I electronically filed the

foregoing document with the Clerk of Court using CM/ECF. I also certify that the

foregoing document is being served this day on all counsel of record identified on

the attached Service List in this manner specified, via transmission of Notice of

Electronic Filing generated by CM/ECF or in some other authorized manner for

those counsel or parties who are not authorized to receive electronically Notice of

Electronic Filing.

/s/ Jason S. Mazer _____

Jason S. Mazer

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